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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,994	12/28/2000	Oussama Zbib	BELL-0065/00235	6861

7590 12/31/2002
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EXAMINER

LE, KAREN L

#7

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,994

Applicant(s)

ZBIB, OUSSAMA

Examiner

Karen Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Montgomery et al. (U.S. 5,781,620).

Regarding claims 1, Montgomery teaches routing a call from a calling party to a called party, comprising: receiving an incoming call request from the calling party (Col.5, lines 20-33); determining a carrier based on the incoming call request and a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes (Col.5, lines 34-63); and routing the call to the called party using the carrier (Col.5, lines 64-66).

Regarding claim 2, Montgomery further teaches receiving the incoming call request comprises receiving a telephone number to be called, and determining the carrier comprises comparing a prefix of the telephone number to the set of routing instructions (Col. 5, lines 34-63 and Col. 7, lines 43-56).

Regarding claim 3, Montgomery further teaches determining if the calling party is a subscriber prior to determining the carrier, and if so, then determining the carrier based on the incoming call request and the set of routing instructions, and otherwise determining the carrier to

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be a default carrier (Fig. 2a, step 207 and Fig. 2c, step 240 deny call).

Regarding claim 4, Montgomery further teaches determining the carrier comprises comparing a prefix of the telephone number to be called contained in the incoming call request to the set of routing instructions (Fig 2b, step 245), and if there is a corresponding carrier corresponding to the prefix, then determining the carrier to be the corresponding carrier (Fig 2b, step 251), and otherwise determining the carrier to be a default carrier (Fig. 2b, step 250) (Col. 12, lines 18-32 and 41-63).

Regarding claim 5, Montgomery further receiving the incoming call request from the calling party comprises receiving the incoming call request at a central office (Fig. 2a, step 200 and 201).

Regarding claim 6, Montgomery further teaches comprising identifying the carrier to the calling party after determining the carrier (Col. 5, lines 64-66).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, Montgomery further teaches receiving the set of routing instructions from the calling party prior to receiving the incoming call request from the calling party and receiving the set of routing instructions comprises receiving a plurality of carriers with associated destination prefixes (Col. 5, lines 34-63).

Regarding claim 9, Montgomery further receiving the set of routing instructions

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comprises receiving at least one of associated times of day and associated days of week (Col. 10, lines 8-13 and 51-57).

Regarding claim 10, Montgomery further teaches a system for routing a call from a calling party (Fig. 1, item 100) to a called party (Fig. 1, item 106) using a carrier within a telecommunications network, comprising: a central office (Fig. 1, item 104) for receiving an incoming call request comprising a destination prefix from the calling party; a storage device for storing a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes (Fig. 1, item Pop1-popn); and a controller for determining the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of routing instructions, and for routing the call to the called party using the carrier (Fig. 1, item 126).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Montgomery further teaches comprising a routing table comprising the set of routing instructions and routing instructions further comprises at least one of associated times of day and associated days of week (Col. 10, lines 7-13 and 51-57).

Regarding claims 13 and 14, Montgomery further teaches comprising a device for identifying to the calling party the determined carrier and the device is a service node (Col. 7, lines 26-35).

Regarding claim 15, Montgomery further teaches the controller determines if the calling party is a subscriber prior to determining the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of

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routing instructions (Col. 9, lines 54-64)..

Regarding claims 16 and 17, Montgomery further teaches the controller determines the carrier based on the destination prefix and the set of routing instructions if the calling party is a subscriber, and otherwise determines the carrier to be a default carrier. The controller compares the destination prefix of the incoming call request to the set of routing instructions, and if there is a corresponding carrier corresponding to the prefix, determining the carrier to be the corresponding carrier, and otherwise determining the carrier to be a default carrier (Col. 8, lines 43-45 and Col. 12, lines 41-63 and Col. 7, lines 43-56).

Regarding claim 18, Montgomery further teaches a routing table for use in determining a carrier to be used in routing a call from a calling party to a called party comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes, days of week, and times of day, wherein the routing table is accessed responsive to an incoming call request generated by the calling party to determine the carrier to be used in routing the call (Col. 10, lines 7-13 and 51-57)

Conclusion

3. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

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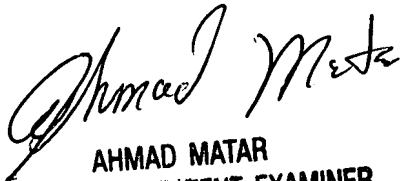
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to
Crystal Park II, Sixth Floor (Receptionist)
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen Le whose telephone number is 703-308-4998. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

Karen Le
KLL
December 20, 2002


AHMAD MATAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600